

Slough Town 2, Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE manager Mike Keen, who knew all about attractive football when he played in the League Cup winning Queens Park Rangers side, needed only two words to describe this memorable New Year's Day encounter.

"Great entertainment," said Mike, bravely hiding his disappointment at having lost an important match to Slough for the second time in a week.

Congratulating Slough boss Laurie Churchill on two fine victories, the Wycombe manager commented: "Today's match should have kept the customers happy. It was really entertaining stuff from both sides."

He resisted the temptation to add that Wycombe were desperately unlucky not to earn a point at least. Determined to avenge their 4-1 hiding at Loakes Park the previous Saturday, Wycombe came to Wexham Park full of spirit and determination, and looked the better side for long spells.

But Slough showed championship character by resisting sternly despite losing key defender Eric Young with a shoulder injury early on, and two superbly-taken goals by top scorer Micky Kiely gave them the double over their championship rivals.

It was a gripping contest from start to finish and Keen is right in his assumption that more matches like this would bring the fans back in droves to see non-league football.

The attendance at Wycombe was 2,200, with just under 1,800 seeing the Wexham Park match, and no one can complain that both games were not worth the entrance money.

When Young was replaced by O'Sullivan midway through the first half Wycombe's chances were obviously improved, but Slough manager Laurie Churchill had good reason to be pleased at the way his defence reshuffled, restricting Wycombe to a couple of half chances in the first half.

Mistake

On the other hand, Slough made two clear cut opportunities with Kiely electing to pass when a shot might have produced a goal following a glaring mistake by the bearded Hardwick, and then firing over the bar after Morrissey's overhead chip had put him through.

But Wycombe, showing five changes from the side which crashed at home, took control of the midfield after the interval and it took stalwart

performances from Reardon and Morrissey to keep the Rebels in the match.

But just as Wycombe threatened to take complete charge, Slough struck with a neatly worked goal. Friend played a corner kick short to Morrissey, then lofted the return across the Wycombe area and Kiely was at the near post to head past the stranded Way.

This was the signal for Wycombe to lay siege to the Slough goal, and defender and captain Paul Birdseye pushed forward with devastating effect in the last 20 minutes. He could have scored three times but bagged only the Wycombe equaliser in an almighty goalmouth scramble.

A minute earlier he had blasted the easiest of chances over the bar from inside the six-yard box, and in the dying seconds hammered a 25-yard shot against the Slough woodwork.

Inspiration

By then Slough had retaken the lead, again against the run of play, and again Morrissey provided the inspiration.

When surrounded by a cluster of blue shirts in the centre circle, he kept his cool and lofted the most deliberate of passes over defending heads Kiely ran through and reached the ball a fraction before Way, steering it confidently into the corner of the net.

It was an anxious last 10 minutes for Slough, with Birdseye's shot against the post being the closest of several near misses, but the Rebels held out to leap-frog over their rivals into second place.

While Birdseye was the

outstanding player on view, Slough had their heroes in Kiely, Reardon and Morrissey, and young Steve Norman showed his character when the chips were down by producing his best display yet in a Slough shirt.

Slough Town: Teale, Yerby, Young, Beyer, Norman, Reardon, Morrissey, Russell, Friend, Kiely, James. Sub - O'Sullivan (for Young).



TERRY GLYNN
... selected

Glynn in league squad

TERRY Glynn, Wycombe's leading scorer, has been included in the Berger Isthmian League's representative squad of 22 for their match against the Combined Services at Slough on Wednesday, January 14.

Glynn, who signed from Enfield at the start of the season, is the only Wycombe player in the squad which manager Alan Smith (Dulwich) will cut to 16 after the F.A. Trophy matches on January 10.

Five Enfield players are in the squad and other interesting selections are goalkeeper Richard Teale (Slough) and Chesham's exciting young player Rene Glenister.